APPENDIX V.

[*Vide Answer to Question 9.*]

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

READ—

1. Paragraph 17 of Government Order No. 1111—R. 5, dated 5th May 1876, according the special privilege of growing cardamom in lieu of coffee on the Kadamane Estate in the Hassan District.

2. Government Order No. 3662-70—R. 98, dated the 2nd August 1821, sanctioning the settlement of coffee lands on an acreage basis.

3. Government Order No. 7502-4—R. F. 340-92, dated 20th February 1897, sanctioning on certain conditions the levy of a reduced rate of annas eight per acre on the Kadamane Estate, among others, as it was reported that owing to heavy rainfall, the land was not suitable for growing coffee.

4. Government Order No. R. 1201-6, dated the 31st August 1925, directing that a resurvey be made of the coffee tract and proposals submitted for revision of assessment on coffee lands.

5. Letter No. 124, dated the 27th April 1926, from the Survey Superintendent, submitting proposals for a revised settlement of coffee lands granted on temporary tenure in the State by increasing the rate from Re. 1 to Rs. 1-4-0 per acre.

6. Notification No. 1340, dated 4th July 1926 of the Survey Superintendent, publishing proposals *re* the revision of rates of assessment on coffee lands and calling for objections to the proposals from persons interested.

7. Correspondence ending with letter No. 87, dated the 9th September 1926, from the same officer forwarding with his remarks and the opinions of the Deputy Commissioners of Hassan, Kadur and Mysore Districts, representations against the enhancement of the rate of assessment received from holders of coffee estates.

8. Unofficial note No. C. 1041—26-27, dated the 12th October 1926, from the Revenue Commissioner, furnishing his opinion on the subject,

ORDER NO. 3724-35—L.S. 10-25-13, DATED 28TH DECEMBER 1926.

The original settlement of coffee lands on a temporary tenure in the State was effected in the year 1881-82, with the usual Survey guarantee of 30 years. The rate of assessment under the settlement on coffee lands was Re. 1 per acre while on poor lands and grass lands, it was fixed at 8 annas and 4 annas, respectively.

2. There are ten taluks in the State in which coffee is grown. The most important of these are the taluks of Manjarabad, Mudgere, Chikmagalore and Koppa. The total extent of coffee estates under temporary tenure is 110,000 acres.

3. The term of the original settlement of these lands expired in 1911-12 but for various reasons the question of resettlement of the area was not taken up till last year when the Superintendent of Survey was requested to make a resurvey of the coffee tract and submit proposals for a revision of assessment on coffee lands. He has accordingly submitted proposals suggesting that the assessment of coffee estates on temporary tenure be raised by 4 annas per acre on coffee lands, the old rates being retained for poor lands and grass lands. From the comparative estimates of the cost of cultivation, yield per acre and profits derived from coffee cultivation in the State and in the adjoining Districts of Coorg, Wynaad and the Nilgiris, as furnished by the Survey Superintendent, it is seen that the estates in Mysore have had certain distinct advantages in the matter of assessment and profits derived from the industry.

4. The proposal to enhance the rate from Re. 1 to 1-4-0 per acre was notified in the Gazette and objections were called for from holders of coffee estates. Twelve objection petitions have been received. It is represented on behalf of the holders of coffee estates that the cultivation of coffee has not proved profitable, that there is dearth of labour and wages are high, that the land is not fertile or productive enough to bear increased assessment and that some lands are also unfit for coffee cultivation on account of heavy rainfall.

5. The Deputy Commissioners of the Districts state that the slight increase of 4 annas per acre will not operate as a hardship on the estate holders. The Survey Superintendent points out that coffee lands on temporary tenure do not differ from those on permanent tenure which are assessed

at Rs. 1-8-0 per acre, that the former have had the benefit of the light assessment for over 15 years after the expiry of the period of guarantee. He recommends that the increase of assessment to Rs. 1-4-0 per acre may be sanctioned; with the period of guarantee at 20 years. The Revenue Commissioner generally agrees with the above views of the Survey Superintendent.

6. Government have considered the proposals of the Survey Superintendent and the objections that have been received to the proposed increase of assessment as well as the opinion of the Deputy Commissioners and the Revenue Commissioner. Government observe that the coffee industry has passed the stage of experiment and coffee is now one of the most profitable crops in the State. There has also been a rise in the price of coffee in recent years. Since the original settlement there has been improvement in communications and transport of produce in the Districts, and planters are at present in a better position than they were 30 years ago. The advent of the Mysore-Arsikere Railway has improved the position still further. It must also be noted that the rates of assessment in respect of all classes of land, except garden land have been revised in the coffee growing taluks, and holders of dry and wet lands in these areas are paying increased rates of assessment. The estates have also had the benefit of the old guarantee for a period of nearly 15 years since its expiry. In view of these considerations as well as those urged by the Superintendent of Survey and the Revenue Commissioner, Government are pleased to accept the proposals of the Survey Superintendent and direct that the revised rate of Rs. 1-4-0 per acre be introduced with effect from the current year 1926-27, with the usual guarantee of 30 years.

7. As regards the Kadamane Estate, it is now assessed at the concession rate of 8 annas per acre. It is reported that cardamom is the main crop on this estate and that cardamom cultivation is more profitable and less expensive than coffee. The rate will be raised to 12 annas per acre all round, subject to the condition regarding resignation of lands imposed in the Government Order dated 20th February 1897 read above.

8. The Survey Superintendent is requested to instruct the Survey Officers of the circles concerned to investigate the question of encroachments in coffee estates, bagayet cultivation in such lands, and conversion and utilization of grass lands for other purposes. The result of the investiga-

tion should be reported to Government. If these lands are utilized for purposes other than those for which they were originally granted, the tenure will be changed and a revised assessment fixed according to the merits of each ease.

P. G. D'SOUZA.
Chief Secretary to Government.

To—The Superintendent, Revenue Survey and Settlements.
The Revenue Commissioner in Mysore.
The Deputy Commissioners of Hassan, Kadur, Mysore and Shimoga Districts.
The Deputy Commissioners of other Districts.
The Comptroller to Government.
The Director of Agriculture in Mysore.
PRESS TABLE.